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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method for determining an integrated logistic support (ILS) date at which a particular ship upgrade can proceed, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a change document in response to a perceived problem associated with a particular type of equipment, for correcting the perceived problem, said change document comprising a description of the problem, an identification of the system impacted, a solution to the perceived problem, an estimated cost of the solution, drawings which must be changed, and proposed vendors for the various parts associated with the solution;

associating said change document with those ships having said particular type of equipment;

associating the particular ship upgrade with the change document for that that particular ship upgrade;

determining arrival dates of all elements associated with the particular upgrade associated with the change document;

selecting a most remote one of the determined arrival dates as the ILS date; and

generating an output indicating whether work can begin on the particular ship on the specified ILS date.

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6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
- obtaining a promised delivery date for delivering an upgrade parts kit; and
  - comparing the promised delivery date with a selected starting date for said ship upgrade.
7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of generating a change document is performed by engineering personnel.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of generating a change document includes the step of generating a change document identifying the system which is impacted.
10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of associating said change document with those ships having said particular type of equipment includes the step of determining whether a particular class of ship is affected.
11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of associating the particular ship upgrade with the change document for that that particular ship upgrade includes the step of assignment of an alteration number representing a particular alteration of a particular ship.

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12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of determining arrival dates of all elements associated with the particular upgrade associated with the change document includes the steps of;

determining at least one of if (a) a Tailored Repairable Items List is required, (b) training is required to implement the alteration of the ship, (c) an Allowance Parts List is required, (d) technical manuals are required, (e) Preventive Maintenance Schedule and Maintenance Requirement Cards are required, (f) a shipyard Installation and Checkout Spares List is required, (g) an Alteration Installation and Checkout Spares List is required, (h) a Coordinated Shore Base Materiel Allowance List is required, (i) Support and Test Equipment is required, (j) Maintenance Assist Modules are required, (k) On-Board Allowance is required, and (l) alteration instructions are required.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of determining arrival dates of all elements associated with the particular upgrade associated with the change document includes the steps of:

determining whether alteration parts kits are required; and  
if alteration parts kits are required, determining the promised delivery date for those not yet arrived.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for determining an integrated logistic support (ILS) date at which a particular ship upgrade can proceed, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a change document, for correcting a perceived problem associated with a particular type of equipment, said change document comprising a

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description of the problem, an identification of the system impacted, a solution to the perceived problem, an estimated cost of the solution, drawings which must be changed, and proposed vendors for the various parts associated with the solution;

associating said change document with those ships having said particular type of equipment;

associating the particular ship upgrade with the change document for that that particular ship upgrade;

determining arrival dates of all elements associated with the particular upgrade associated with the change document;

selecting a most remote one of the determined arrival dates as the ILS date;

comparing the ILS date with a selected starting date for the ship upgrade; and

generating an output indicating whether work can begin on the particular ship on the specified ILS date.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

obtaining a promised delivery date for delivering an upgrade parts kit; and  
comparing the promised delivery date with the selected starting date.